

Department of Consumer Affairs

News Release

News and Information

From the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POSTAL SERVICE JOB SCAM THWARTED

A Florida company advertising U.S. Postal jobs with "no experience or high school diploma necessary" cannot hold a workshop and seminar planned for tonight in Murfreesboro, a Rutherford County judge has ordered.

Judge Steve Daniel issued an agreed temporary injunction against CCS, Inc. and its president John R. Turner after the Tennessee Attorney General's Office filed suit on behalf of the Division of Consumer Affairs against Turner and his company. The suit alleges that the company and its president violated state Consumer Protection laws through a newspaper advertisement.

The ad, which appeared in the Murfreesboro Daily News Journal, offered "POSTAL JOBS" and invited the public to attend a \$25, four-hour session at the Holiday Inn on Old Fort Parkway. The ad guaranteed employment for those who scored highest on tests. The advertisement also specifically listed jobs allegedly being offered as well as a pay scale. It also stated that employees would be given "excellent benefits," "job security" and that U.S. citizenship was not necessary.

CCS, Inc. is not associated with the Post Office in any way and is not authorized to present workshops, orientations or administer tests on behalf of the Post Office, according to the U.S. Postal Service. Additionally, the Post Office does not guarantee employment for anyone, even if the authorized tests are completed.

"These people were not only taking advantage of innocent citizens who are trying to find work," said Mark Williams, director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, "but it is equally disturbing that they are undermining the credibility of the United States government."

The investigation began when the State's Division of Consumer Affairs was contacted with a copy of the advertisement from Michael Turko at WKRN in Nashville. The Office of the Attorney General filed suit after obtaining affidavits from officials at the Daily News Journal and the Holiday Inn in Murfreesboro.

"We are especially grateful to Michael Turko for giving us the tip, and to the Daily News Journal and the Holiday Inn for cooperating with the investigation. And many thanks go out to the consumer who called in with information about the ad for their willingness to step forward on behalf of Tennessee consumers," Williams said.

Employees of the Holiday Inn say this is not the first time the defendants have conducted similar workshop seminar sessions at the hotel. The judge's order, however, prevents the defendants from conducting any future sessions based on the advertisement which ran in Murfreesboro.

CCS, Inc. and its president are further prohibited from implying they are associated in any way with the Postal Service or any other governmental agency or that they are authorized to administer any test that they are not authorized to administer. The defendants are also forbidden to collect payment for any seminar, workshop or orientation program that has been promoted by advertisements that violate the terms of the temporary injunction.

"Consumers need to be careful when responding to ads that imply government authorization for tests," Williams said. "Always call the agency first. Government agencies do not charge for employment tests or applications."

Anyone who may have attended similar seminars or workshop in the past should contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at 741-4737, or toll free at 800-342-8385.

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Mark Williams, Director

Diane Watson, Public Information Officer